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LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Concerning your report of 21 December 1992 (S/25000), which deals with the stationing of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) along the international borders of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would like to express the support of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the proposals contained in the report, especially the third option listed, (option C). Option C involves the deployment of an additional 10,000 UNPROFOR troops that would be empowered to observe, search, deny passage and report violations of relevant Security Council resolutions at some 123 crossing points along the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Republic of Croatia supports the proposal particularly because it represents a more decisive effort by the United Nations and other international factors to contain the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and keep it from spilling over into other parts of the Balkans. It also adds the essential peacemaking element to the present humanitarian and peace-keeping role of UNPROFOR.

It is the position of the Croatian Government that the proposal should be implemented in connection with the Vance Plan, which calls for the complete demilitarization of the United Nations Protected Areas on the territory of the Republic of Croatia. This plan should also guarantee the inviolability and control of the international borders of the Republic of Croatia. In this context, it is necessary to mention that Security Council resolution 769 (1992) authorized the enlargement of the mandate and strength of UNPROFOR in order to establish controls along the international border of Croatia. Although the resolution was adopted on 7 August 1992, there has been no effective action undertaken for its implementation.

The establishment of controls along the international borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia is necessary to bring peace and stability to the region. It would demonstrate the willingness of the international community to uphold the inviolability and undisputed legitimacy of these borders and to thwart the policies of aggression and territorial expansion by Serbia and Montenegro. In practical terms, it would prevent the supply of weapons and any kind of military or economic assistance to the militant Serbian paramilitary units in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Faced with this decisive and principled stance by the world community, and cut off from their supply of armaments and other materials, the Serbian paramilitary units would be forced to seek peaceful solutions and abide by internationally established norms and principles, which would allow for the realization of the Vance Plan, the undertaking of confidence-building and other positive measures of reintegration of the occupied areas of the Republic of Croatia into its legal, political, economic and social system in order to bring a lasting peace to the region.

I would kindly request that you have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Croatia to
the United Nations